

Message Text

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16

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 HEW-02 OES-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 TRSE-00 /084 W

----- 122279

P 040910Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4540

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR JA

SUBJECT: US CITRUS/MEDFLY

REF: OCT 31 THOMASSON LETTER TO HUME

1. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MAF/PQ ON NOV 4, AGATT REPS LEARNED THAT OVER WEEKEND HIGH LEVEL TALKS WERE HELD MAF RE SUBJECT PROBLEM. SAKAI OF MAF/PQ, WHO PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS, DESCRIBED ATMOSPHERE THEREIN AS QUOTE VERY SEVERE UNQUOTE. HE SAYS GENERAL CONSENSUS OF ALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS INCLUDING DIR GEN SAWABE WAS THAT TOTAL BAN IMPORTS OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES OF ALL HOST PLANTS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

2. MAF/PQ HAS CABLED (NOV 1) JAPAN EMBASSY, WASHDC WITH LONG LIST QUESTIONS RE DETAILS ON CURRENT SITUATION AND REQUESTING APHIS TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS INSPECTING HOST PLANT MATERIALS DESTINED FOR JAPAN; ALSO ASKING APHIS TO DETAIL WHAT FORM THESE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS MIGHT TAKE.

3. UNDER JAPANESE PQ LAW ONCE MAF/PQ DETERMINES THAT MEDFLY ESTABLISHED IN CALIF, MAF WILL HAVE TO PUT BAN IMPORTS FROM MAINLAND U.S. THIS WOULD MEAN TOTAL LOSS OF JAPAN AS MARKET

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FOR FRESH U.S. CITRUS (OVER \$60 MILLION FOB ANNUALLY),

CANTALOUPE, WATERMELONS, AVOCADOS, ETC.

4. IF APHIS FEELS GOOD SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT FLY NOT YET ESTABLISHED, AGATT FEELS ONLY POSSIBILITY U.S. HAS TO AVOID IMPORT BAN IS TO SEND EXPERT FROM APHIS TO TOKYO TO DISCUSS MATTER IN FULL DETAIL WITH MAF/PQ ASAP. THIS EXPERT SHOULD ARRIVE HERE AS EARLY AS NOV 6 IF POSSIBLE AS TIME OF ESSENCE. HE SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH HISTORY OF OUTBREAK, METHODS OF TRAPPING, ETC., NOW BEING USED AND MEASURES PLANNED FOR FUTURE.

5. IF IMPORTS ARE STOPPED, LIFTING BAN AFTER ERADICATION WILL REQUIRE PUBLIC HEARING, ETC., AND MAY BE VERY DIFFICULT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE SEND APHIS EXPERT SUCH AS J.O. LEE TO JAPAN TO DISCUSS SUBJECT IN FULL DETAIL WITH MAF/PQ IMMEDIATELY.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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